

K-9

Custom House
Water Street, Chestertown
C. 1745

Simon Wilmer retained ownership of water lot No. 18 until his death in 1737 when it was devised to his daughter, Mary along with lot No. 7.¹ She in turn, after becoming the widow of Thomas Clay and before remarrying George W. Forrester, Rector of Shrewsbury Parish, sold water lot No. 18 to Samuel Massey, of Chestertown, Gentleman. Massey paid sixty pounds current money for ... "all that water lott...next adjoining to High Street and the main warff and known by lott No. 18 and formerly devised to the said Mary by her Father in his last will together with all houses Improvements warffs profits...etc."² Massey had been an innkeeper for at least the period 1740-43.³ When he sold lot No. 18, he is listed as a merchant and by the time of his death in 1758, he was living across the river in Queen Anne's County "near Chester Town Ferry."⁴

After acquiring water lot No. 18 Samuel Massey set out building what was to be the largest building in Chestertown at that time. Built partially into a bank near the river, it stood on a very prominent location adjacent the town dock. From Front Street, its five bay facade was very similar to two other houses nearby, Dr. William Murray's house at Front and Cannon Streets and Walter Dougherty's Inn in the middle of the first block of High Street. Like the latter, Massey's new facade was laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. The water table jogged up and over the basement windows. And like the Murray House, it had a plaster cove cornice and a partially hipped roof, i.e. the southwest wall had a gable where it joined a 1-1/2 story brick and stone structure. Unlike either of the

aforesaid buildings, Massey's house had first story windows that were twice the size of the second story windows. This ratio in window size is found elsewhere in Kent County only at the Reward, constructed during the same decade of the 1740's.

Other than the Front Street facade, the remainder of the building was three full stories plus attic. On High Street, there was a secondary entrance to the first floor located in the third bay of the four-bay facade. There must have been a long flight of steps to reach the door. On ground level there was a very wide opening, large enough to wheel in a small cart, and two 6/6 sash windows. From this facade, the roof appeared hipped on all sides with a large cruciform-plan chimney rising above in line with the entry.

The plan of the building was an "L" with one end facing the Chester River and the other joining the 1-1/2 story building on Front Street. The river facade had only one window on each story and probably a dormer on the hipped roof. The back or riverside of the building was constructed of stone up to the first story, and English bond above. On the ground floor was another wide opening, this flanked by two windows. Apparently, there was a porch or covered deck at the first story level where the rear door is located. (A wood stringer built beneath the three second floor windows appears to have been a nailer for the roof rafters.)

The southwest wall of the "L" had a door at ground level with adjoining window and one full size window on each of the floors above. In addition to the above, there were two small four-pane casements to throw light into the secondary stair passage.

Joining the southwest gable was a 1-1/2 story structure, approximately thirty two feet long with a parapet brick gable at its southwest end and built-in chimney. It is difficult to conjecture its original appearance even though the stone basement exists on the water side and one old photo seems to indicate a four-bay facade on Front Street, without dormers.

The plan of Samuel Massey's building was more developed than Dr. Murray's house. In Murray's, the building was rectangular with two rooms on one side and one on the other side of the central stairhall. At Massey's the two rooms were larger resulting in the "L" plan. Having a second facade on High Street required placing the fireplaces for these two rooms back-to-back with a small vestibule for the secondary entrance on High Street. On the opposite side of the chimney were secondary stair passages. For spatial reasons, the fireplace of the front corner room was placed on the diagonal whereas the river side room was in a usual location. The finish of the river side room was usual however, for the fireplace wall was flanked by two doors on each side.

Beginning on High Street, the first door opened from the vestibule, the second was a closet, the third was a secondary stair to the front corner chamber and the fourth door opened from a passage to the front hall. This room had the best woodwork, with bold cornice breaking out and tied into the window trim, bolection chair rail, etc. With the exception of the close-string stair with turned balustrade and paneled newels, joined together above the second floor, the remainder of the house was simply finished with beaded board partitions and good raised-panel doors. The one large

southwest room of the first story was completely sheathed with beaded boards. To the west of its fireplace was a door connecting it to the 1-1/2 story addition next door.

The second floor plan differed from the first in that the space above the stair hall and southwest room was divided into three small rooms and a stair hall on the riverside. The one room at the southwest gable had a plain plastered fireplace. The opposite side of the building was the same as below, with access to the river side room and a second stair ascending from the back room below.

On the ground level, in the river side room, was the original kitchen to the house which boasted an eleven foot wide fireplace into which was later built a bake oven, reducing the fireplace width to 7'4". There was a window on each of the three walls with an exterior door on the southwest wall. To the side of the huge fireplace was probably two doors, one to a stair ascending to the front corner room, the other to a passage to the rest of the ground floor. Beneath the corner room, was access to a stone and brick vault, located beneath a terrace of the Front Street facade. Along its High Street side was a brick retaining wall with two large vents. It was easily accessible from the wide door on the High Street side of the building. No documentation has been found as to the use of the vault. Tradition states it was for maintaining slaves until they were sold, but other similar vaults in domestic situations were for storage of wines and other food stuffs requiring a constant temperature and humidity. A second vault is said to have been located in front of the adjoining brick and stone building.

In January of 1749 Samuel Massey sold "all that water lot of Ground

and Messuage House and tenement lying in Chester Town ... next adjoining High Street and Main Warff (the said lott being know ... No. 18 ...) together with all Houses outhouses foundations walls stones warffs ways easements improvements profits advantages and Hereditaments whatsoever to the same lott of ground and messuage House and tenement belonging ..." to Thomas Ringgold.⁵ In all probability, the buildings were not finished by the time of this sale. There is no reason given for the sale of the lot and buildings but probably Massey was running out of funds.

Thomas Ringgold, "Attorney at Law" was the most well respected attorney in the period of the 1740's to 1772 in Chestertown. From the land records of the period, he was very active buying and selling real estate. He was a member of the House of Burgesses periodically during those years and was a member of the Continental Convention and was intimately involved with the affairs of the Church, first with St. Paul's Parish and after 1766 with the newly formed Chester Parish. His firm, including his brother William and son Thomas, were the bookkeepers and bankers of the day. From his home and adjoining main wharf, he was able to keep an eye on the ships for his own mercantile concerns as well as providing an office for the District Customs Collector. In a report by a supervising inspector he states that "the Customs House is a seperate Building from the Collectors House, and I think five pounds star^g. p. Ann^m is a very reasonable Charge for the office and firing etc ...".⁶ From this scant information, it has been conjectured that the Customs Office was perhaps the building adjoining Thomas Ringgold's residence, the 1-1/2 story brick and stone building.

When Thomas IV died in 1772, his house was to go to his son Thomas

V, and his widow, Anna Maria Earle Ringgold was to have "the Tenement Houses lott; ground and garden I bought of Doctr William Murray ... in which my son now lives ...".⁷ This bequest was to be reversed by his son when he wrote his twenty page will only two years later. He also revealed other facets of his business and the building which were not contained in other documents.

"And I do also give and devise to my Mother the House in which she now lives not only the old part but the addition made thereto in my Father's life together with all the Cellars belonging to it. And I do give and devise to my Mother the Lot N^o7 opposite to the said House together withall the Houses erected thereon ...".⁸

This is a clear indication that the two bay wing added toward the River was constructed prior to 1772, the year the Senior Ringgold died. The addition was the same height as the earlier structure. In order to have a continuous roof however, the early hip roof was eliminated. Its High Street facade was laid in Flemish bond, but there was no effort to copy the decorative glazed headers of the older part. It has neither water table nor belt course and the windows don't correspond in size or position to the others. Moreover, all header bond was used on the back of the addition which had the only exterior entrance. The addition consisted of a stair hall and one room on each floor. On the ground floor was a second kitchen with large arched fireplace having double cranes, a feature also used at the Ringgold House up the street.

The first floor room had a plain dado with plain pilasters beneath the

window trim. Its fireplace wall was paneled and had flanking closets. On the floor above, presumably Mr. & Mrs. Ringgold's bed chamber, there was the same arrangement, but the vertical board wall was plastered on the outside, probably to show off some fine wall paper. At each level, a door was broken through the old part for easy access between the two sections of the house. The doors are constructed in much the same manner as the doors at Widehall built in 1769-70.

Thomas Ringgold V. gives farther instructions to his executors pertaining to the house that his Mother occupied:

"It is my will and I do direct that any Executors or Executor for the time being shall rent out my dry good store the Computing House adjoining commonly called Bath House and the Cellars and Vaults underneath the same the Coopers Shop on the two wharves with the Large Granaries or Store Houses thereon on the best terms they can first enclosing at the expense of my Estate such a yard and in such Manner as my Mother shall choose before her Kitchen door and carefully stipulating with their tennant or Tennants every matter or thing that may be thought necessary to prevent my Mother from being inconvenienced by such tenant or tenants themselves or servants and out of the rents and profits shall keep the same in good repair ..." 9.

From this document there can be little doubt that much of the Ringgold business was carried on in the residence of the senior Ringgolds. From structural evidence found in the building during restoration, it was apparent that both front rooms of the first floor were cut into two oddly-shaped spaces and they were the dry good store or perhaps room where

they sold the "over quantity of nails" and other goods advertised in the Maryland Gazette on June 13, 1771. With the premature death of Thomas (V) in 1774 it was not to be until 1791 that Thomas VI came of age and assumed the management of the family fortune.¹⁰ But Thomas did not remain in Chestertown for long. His Grandmother died in 1794 and he sold the house she had occupied the last 45 years of her life.

William Sluby, another merchant and also co-bondsman with Thomas (VI) of his father's estate, purchased water lots 18, 19, and part of 20 and lot No. 7 across the street for the sum of @2250, a price indicating the extent and value of that real estate.¹¹ Perhaps Sluby had rented the premises previously. Thomas VI had moved to Baltimore County by the time he executed the deed in 1796. The other Ringgold House was not sold out of the immediate family until 1808.

When William Sluby died three years after acquiring the property, it had to be sold in order to pay his debts, which were considerable. William had been executor of his brother-in-law's estate and "although that Estate is fully paid away and settled yet a considerable balance still stands against me on the books of the Register."¹² His estate was brought before Chancery Court and in the proceedings is listed "two water lots in Chestertown on which are erected a large Brick House, a Store and small Brick House, two granaries and some other improvements. One lot or part of lot No. 7 on which are a stable Carriage House and meat house."¹³ As a result of the sale in 1801 the house was sold to William Jones, Sluby's nephew, and did not include the wharf, Store, small brick house or lot No. 7 across the street. Prior to 1805 Jones sold the house to Simon Wickes, for in another

deed to the wharf in that year it refers to the "large brick house of Simon Wickes."¹⁴

The old house remained in Simon's family until Simon Wickes, Jr. (actually the third) sold the property in 1853 to Joseph Usilton who turned it over immediately to Senator James Alfred Pearce. Pearce who had occupied the Custom House since at least 1841, owned the house for only one year before purchasing the other Ringgold House across the street.

Hiram Brown purchased the house in 1854 and married Mary Elizabeth Merritt of Godlington Manor the following year. The Browns lived at the Custom House until they purchased River House in the next block of Water Street in 1877. But, even while residing at the Customs House they rented out rooms or apartments. After their move to River House a major remodeling was undertaken. The huge central chimney was dismantled and replaced by a small single flue chimney. The resulting space was incorporated into the several apartments. The building continued in use as apartments until after it was purchased by Wilbur W. Hubbard in 1909.¹⁵

Within a short time Mr. Hubbard had purchased and begun the remodeling of Widehall. He also purchased the old wharves and warehouse which were located on both sides of the public wharf as well as the rest of lot 18, and all of lot 19. Within the year he had taken down the old Custom House, or Store as it was called in the Sluby disposition, and the adjoining Redue House on lot 19. Apparently the basements were left and the four adjoining three story frame house were built upon those old stone and brick foundations. In 1923 he remodeled the large brick building into

"modern" apartments which would appeal to a better clientele. He added a two-story frame wing in the south west corner, for kitchens and baths, and a porch along High Street. An entrance to the addition was opened on High Street, after rebuilding the first flight of stairs inside. The unique small rooms of the second floor were drastically altered. In all he had four apartments and one efficiency. Twenty years after Mr. Hubbard's death in 1938, Mrs. Hubbard deeded the Custom House to their son Wilbur Ross Hubbard.¹⁶

In 1975-76 Mr. Hubbard began a project of bringing the building back to an earlier appearance. The central chimney foundations were discovered and the five fireplaces and cross-plan stack were reconstructed. Woodwork was restored or duplicated and the entire building was converted into a guest house and apartment. The Custom House remains one of the most important 1740's period buildings in the county and one of the most visible.

1. Wills, Lib. 2, fol. 58.
2. Land Records, Lib. JS 25, fol. 338.
3. Kent Co. Court Records, 1740-1743.
4. Maryland Gazette, Dec. 4, 1755; July 6, 1758.
5. Land Records, Lib. JS 26, fol. 282.
6. Papers relating to officers of the Customs in North America, Md. Hist. Mag. Vol. XXVII, No. 3, Sept. 1932, p. 233.
7. Wills, Lib. 5, fol. 73.
8. Wills, Lib. 5, fol. 231.
9. Wills, Lib. 5, fol. 241.

10. Bonds, Lib. 7, fol. 164.
11. Land Records, Lib BC 4, fol. 475.
12. Wills, Lib. 8, fol. 22.
13. Chancery, Lib. 47, fol. 459.
14. Land Records, Lib. BC 3, fol. 258.
15. Land Records, Lib. JTD 19, fol. 195.
16. Land Records, Lib. WHG 59, fol. 427.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Easement
1500092104

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Customs House
AND/OR COMMON

K-9

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Corner High Street and Front Street (#101)

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
K-First

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: tenanted

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Wilbur Ross Hubbard

Telephone #: 778-2121

STREET & NUMBER
Water Street

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE none

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

K-9

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	restoration in progress	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Customs House in Chestertown is located on the corner of Front Street and High Street, with its ~~original~~ facade facing on Front. It is built on an L plan.

It is a 2½-story, 5-bay brick building with a gabled roof and ~~dormers~~. The facade is symmetrical; the entrance is within a columned portico. The door is 6-paneled and has a 6-pane transom.

The brick is laid in Flemish bond and the headers are glazed above a molded brick water table; the water table jogs above the basement windows. All of the windows and doors on the house have segmental arches. There is a belt course on the facade, which continues around the southwest (left) corner of the building onto the northwest elevation. The windows on the first story of the facade and northwest elevation are 6/6 on the first story, 4/4 on the second, and 6/6 in the dormers. All have louvered shutters.

The house has a cove cornice and the roof is covered with wood shingles. There are two gabled dormers on the front roof and three on the L wing, which is squared to the northwest gable end forming a roof hip and the junction. The L wing is four bays deep and has had two additional bays added. The L wing has a full basement forming a full story. There are several entrances and windows at the ground level. The southeast gable end is flush up against the adjoining house.

rear
On the/gable end there is a porch at first story level overlooking the Chester River.

There are three large chimneys: one within the southeast gable end, one in the middle of the roof of the L wing, and one within the rear gable end.

The house is presently being restored through matching funds from the Maryland Historical Trust.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1745-1749

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

mpt known

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Customs House, which may or may not have been a customs house, is a Georgian style building built in the late 1740's and added onto ~~in~~ later in the century. There is no evidence that has turned up to demonstrate that the Customs House ever ~~was used for its~~ filled the role traditionally attributed to it. Its location is likely; there was a customs house (and a collector's house) in Chestertown in the 1770's. ¹⁷⁴⁹ Thomas Ringgold owned the building from 1749 to 1796: in his will ~~he~~ leaves the Customs House to his mother--"the House in which she now lives not only the old part but the addition made thereto in my Father's life together with all the cellars belonging to it." There is no implication here that the building was the customs house, though of course it may have been earlier, during Thomas Ringgold, Sr.'s lifetime.

Architecturally, the building is one of the major Georgian treasures in Chestertown, a basic part of the Georgian neighborhood of which it is a part. Fortunately funds have been found to underwrite its restoration.

Summary of Title Search

Will of Simon Wilmer to daughter Mary. Lot 18, undeveloped. (1737)

Mary (Wilmer) Clay to Samuel Massey, Lot 18, together with all houses, improvements, warf profits. Liber 6 254 (1745) L60.

Samuel Massey to Thomas Ringgold Liber 6 588 (1749) L500

Thomas Ringgold wills to his mother--"both old part and new part" 1774

Thomas Ringgold to William Sluby BC 4 475 (1796) L2250

Water Lots 18, 19, part of 20 and Town Lot 7. (will codocil makes this transaction possible--not clear how)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-9

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the south corner of High and Front Streets and running in a southwesterly direction with the line of Front Street 48 feet more or less to the land of E.M. Wheat; thence parallel to High Street in a southeasterly direction toward Chester River 75 feet more or less to the rear of the Wheat lot; thence in a southwesterly direction parallel to Front Street and with the back line of the Wheat, Newcomb, Harte, and Skipper properties 100.49 feet more or less to the line dividing water lots 19 & 20; thence south 45 degrees partly with the land of Washington College and partly reparian

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

rights 208 feet more or less to Chester Riverthence North 38 degrees, 47 minutes East along said river 149.4 feet more or less to an extension of the line of High Street; thence by and with High Street to the place of beginning.

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Neill/ Michael Bourne Historic Site Surveyors

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/ Town of Chestertown

DATE

July, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Kent County TOWN Chestertown VICINITY STREET NO. #101 Front Street ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE Customs PRESENT OWNER Wilbur Ross Hubbard PRESENT USE SEE BELOW WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick NO. OF STORIES 2-1/2		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY K - 9 2. NAME Custom House DATE OR PERIOD Mid 18th century STYLE Georgian ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <p style="text-align: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u></p> <p><u>Present use:</u> One apartment and a small Museum</p> <p>The old "Customs House" in Chestertown is located on Front Street. It is 2-1/2 stories high. It is five bays long with central door, which is covered by a columned portico. There is a six-panel entrance door, with a transom. Built of brick, the Flemish bond has glazed headers. The molded water-table jogs above the segmentally arched basement windows. All of the windows and doors have segmental arches. There is a belt course on the facade. It has a cove form cornice of plaster and the roof has two dormers. At this point, an "ell" plan is formed. The "ell" is six bays deep and the basement forms a full story, containing a kitchen with large fireplace flanked by two tall narrow windows. There are three dormers on the roof of the "ell". The two bays of windows nearest the river are a later addition. On the gable end there is a porch at first floor level overlooking the Chester River. The sash are 6 over 6 on the first floor, 4 over 4 on the second floor, and 6 over 6 in the dormers. There are louvered shutters throughout.</p> <p><u>Good condition</u></p>		5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH 1 B&W	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <p style="text-align: center;">Michael O. Bourne Maryland Historical Trust</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DATE OF RECORD February 7, 1968</p>	

K-9 Customs House
Chestertown
private

c. 1745

Local historians have debated the authenticity of the Customs House's role in Chestertown's eighteenth century commerical history for generations. It is known that there was a customs house and this house ~~has~~^{has} traditionally been associated with that role; but the evidence remains equivocal. It is a handsome ~~eighteen~~ Georgian L shaped building whose basic structure was built in the late 1740's under the ownership of Samuel Massey. It was in the ~~the~~ hands of the prominent Ringgolds for the rest of the century, who were presumably responsible for the two bay addition to the southeast gable ~~to~~ end. The house is especially notable for its basement, a full floor on the northeast elevation, containing a kitchen with a large fireplace. The whole structure is presently being restored through a matching grant from the Maryland Historical Trust.

4



SENT

TWILLEY
LANE
QUEEN

WATER CANNON

Chester

VITA FOODS

TWILLEY
LANE
QUEEN

L

REET

MAPLE

OLL DRIVE

TERRACE

COURT

AVENUE

ELM STREET

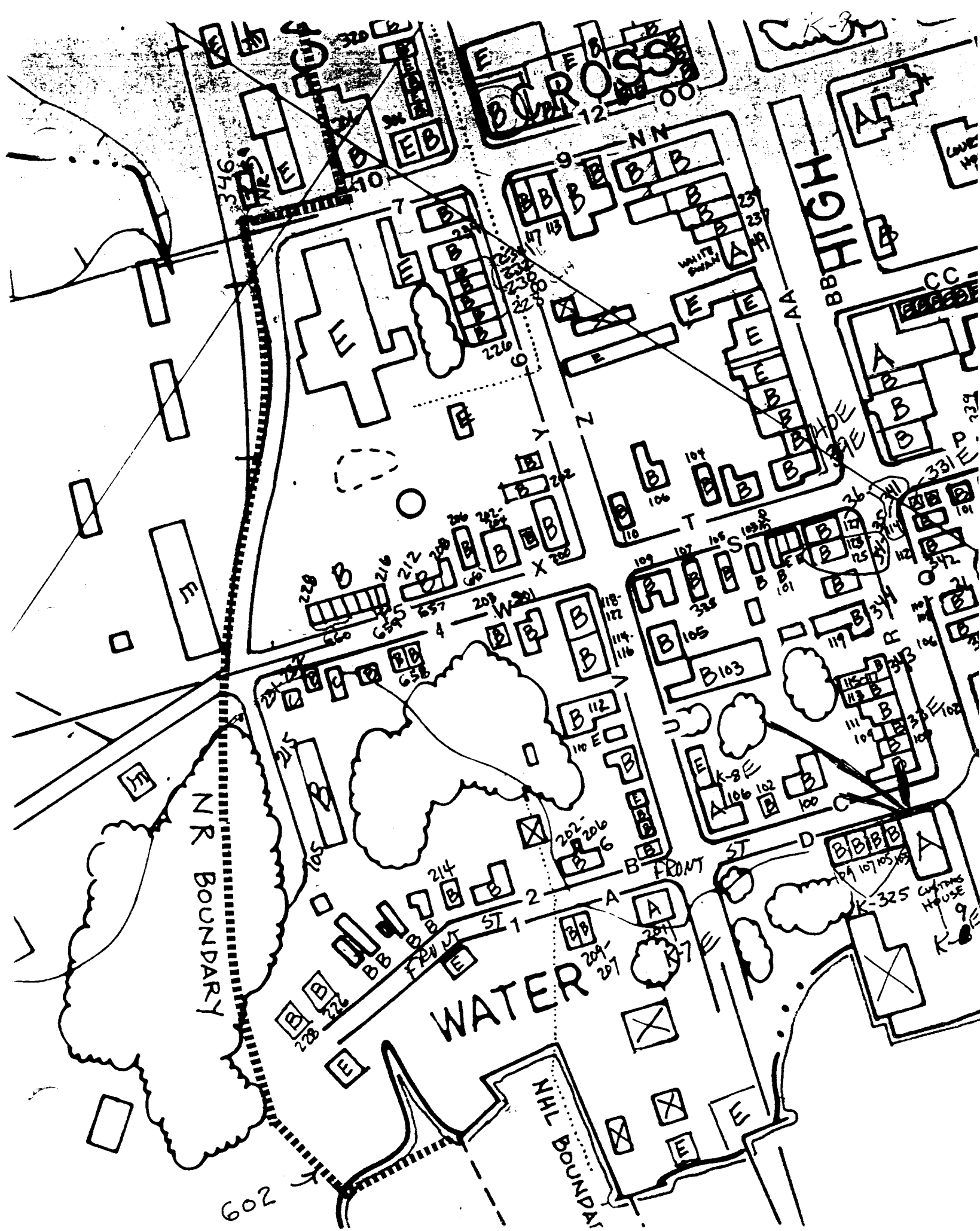
STRE

CEDAR

STREET

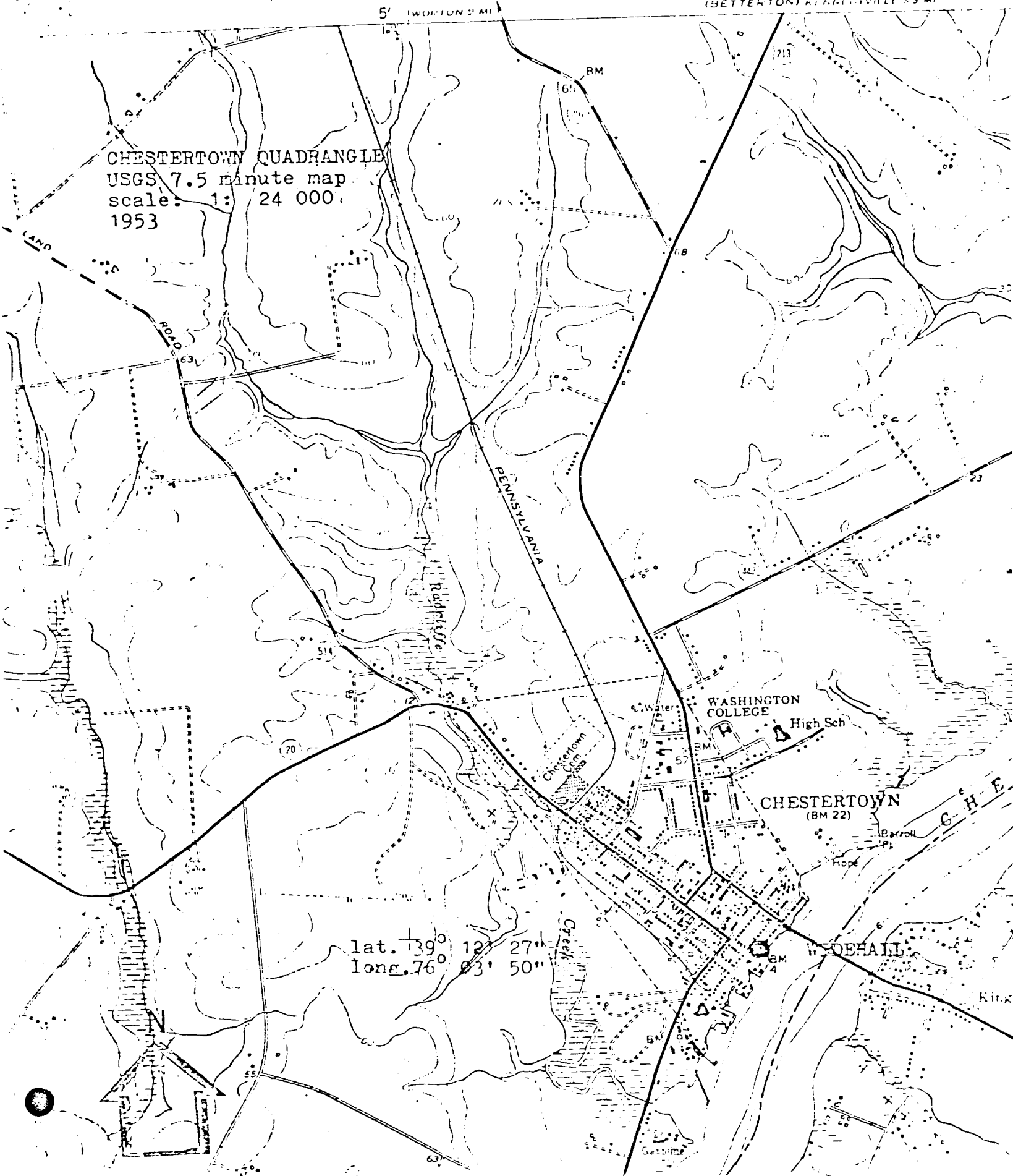
STREETS

MORRIS



5' LOCATION: MI

(BETTERTON) 41 AND 42 MI





K 9 Customs House
1/27 W + N



Customs House

Kent County

K.-9 MOB

1

Please Credit to:

Maryland Historical Trust
2525 Riva Road
Annapolis, MD. 21401



CUSTOMS HOUSE, KENT CTY - EASTERN SHORE K-9

194/

MD. HISTORICAL ARCHIVES
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

1403 3/68



K 9 Customs House, corner Bond & High, Chestnut Brown
spring 1976 Taber's Kid



CUSTOMHOUSE. (12)

3/5

Custom House
Chester town

K-9

PS 18 5/5

141
2'
141



CUSTOMSHOUSE RIVER (14)

9390

River front at foot of High Street
Chester town

K-9

B 34 83%

140
18
122



K-9

Customs House

Chestertown



K-9

Customs House

Chestertown



K-9

Custom House

Chestertown

KKW

(MHT)

Set 1/B
Collapse p. 7 #5 820